



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010

No. 75

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

BICYCLING BURNS CALORIES, NOT FOSSIL FUEL

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I just returned from a 2-day livability tour, thanks to the courtesy of my colleague, Congresswoman ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ, a champion of sustainability. I visited her district in Pennsylvania, where she represents parts of Montgomery County and Philadelphia, where we saw rural landscapes, small townships, suburban communities, dense urban areas, open space, abandoned industrial land, and an aging but vital transit system. Together, they illustrated all the challenges that we face in our efforts to rebuild and renew America.

I have a special interest in their initiative for a trail network, where their vision and hard work was rewarded by millions of dollars from the Obama administration and the economic Recovery Act to help fill in the gaps of an exciting trail expansion for the two-State region, including New Jersey.

Amidst impressive progress on Mayor Michael Nutter's vision to make Philadelphia the greenest city in America, with innovative water projects, creative private sector efforts in green development, township progress on revitalization, and important progress in open space protection, the bicycle session stood out. The increase in rider-

ship in Philadelphia was impressive, and they have undertaken a spectacular program—in all 172 elementary schools to train young cyclists and pedestrians. It certainly got my attention. But so did the challenges they face as cycling advocates. It didn't appear as though the regional planning agency, or PennDOT, placed a high priority on bicycle safety. I hope I'm wrong, especially since bike fatalities doubled last year in Philadelphia, but it would not be unusual if it didn't capture a priority. Nationally, bicycle and pedestrians represent 15 percent of all traffic fatalities but only 3 percent of our spending on safety improvements and education, about one-fifth of the proportionate share that would be warranted. It's especially sad, because the bike and pedestrian victims are more likely to be children and the elderly, more vulnerable populations that should, if anything, command more of our attention.

The cycling community is doing its part to change this unfortunate pattern. As part of its effort to raise awareness, tomorrow in 49 States and 21 nations, there will be Rides of Silence. There will be 274 silent processions riding no more than 12 miles an hour to show respect for the families, friends and neighbors of 700 cyclists killed last year in America alone and as a reminder to law enforcement, to motorists and government officials of both the dangers to and the opportunities for cyclists.

You know, it doesn't have to be this dangerous. Facilities, awareness, training and courtesy can all make cycling safer. I have seen it firsthand. I represent Portland, Oregon, the unofficial American cycling capital. We have had spectacular increases in bike riding. It's doubled in the last 10 years alone, the highest participation in any major American city, but the rate of injuries and death was cut in half.

At a time when more and more Americans want to burn calories, not

fossil fuel like the oil bubbling out in the Gulf, when they want to fight congestion, obesity and save money cycling, let's work not just to make it convenient and fun but safe, especially for our children.

This is Bicycle Month. On Friday, we have Bike to Work Day all across America. Tomorrow, I hope Americans will join us in respecting the Rides of Silence to raise awareness for cycling safety.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

You alone are the Lord our God, Father of all, Who is over all and works through all and is in all. Each of us has been endowed with great gifts by You, Almighty God, and we receive these gifts according to personal measure.

Let us therefore no longer act as children, wasting time and playing games with one another for our own satisfaction. Allow us not to be tossed about here and there by every kind of story and rumor born of human trickery, so skilled in half-truths.

Rather, Lord, hold us to that greater truth founded on a unified assessment that will provide common ground upon

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3487